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January 12, 2018

Today's Wind & Solar Energy News will not publish on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It resumes on Tuesday, January 16.

Denmark Positions Itself as the Flag Bearer for Wind Power

By Peter Levring, Bloomberg • Posted 2018-01-12 06:20:30

Denmark just set a world record for using wind power to drive its economy. Its government now predicts that anyone betting against the technology is on the wrong side of history. As U.S. President Donald Trump's attempts to promote coal founder, Denmark is positioning itself as the flag bearer for wind power. Danish Energy Minister Lars Chr. Lilleholt says the arguments over renewables, once driven entirely by environmental considerations, are now very much based on the economics. [read more ...]

After an Uncertain Start, U.S. Offshore Wind Is Powering Up

BY ROGER DROUIN, Yale 360 • Posted 2018-01-12 06:21:34

After years of delays, the U.S. offshore wind industry is finally gaining momentum, with new projects being planned along the Atlantic coast. So far, the Trump administration seems to be regarding offshore wind as one form of renewable energy it can support. [read more ...]

Oil Giants See a Future in Offshore Wind Power. Their Suppliers Are Investing, Too.

By Lyndsey Gilpin, InsideClimate News • Posted 2018-01-12 06:21:08

Transporting an offshore wind array from the factory floor to the ocean floor is no easy feat. Giant, specialized marine vessels must carry the blades and turbines—which sit atop rigs hundreds of feet tall—out miles from shore. Steel or concrete foundations are built to hold them in place, and underwater cables are laid on the seabed to transfer the power to land. [read more ...]

As Trump's fossil-fuel 'energy dominance' plan founders, a crucial solar energy decision nears

By Keith Schneider, Los Angeles Times • Posted 2018-01-12 06:22:32

One more momentous decision for energy, the economy and the environment awaits the president. Sometime before Jan. 26, Trump will rule on levying a tariff on imported crystalline photovoltaic panels, by far the most popular equipment in the U.S. for generating electricity from the sun. [read more ...]

Nelson, governors want answers on Zinke's Fla. about-face

Geof Koss, E&E News reporter • Posted 2018-01-12 06:22:56

Sen. Bill Nelson (D-Fla.) is questioning whether Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision yesterday to suddenly withdraw federal waters off Florida from the department's five-year leasing plan violated administrative law. Nelson, who repeatedly derided Zinke's move as a "political stunt" in a Senate floor speech this afternoon, outlined questions in a letter to the secretary, noting the general public is now being asked to comment on something "vastly different" from what was published in the Federal Register on Monday. [read more ...]

One Of U.S.' 'Most Fracked Regions' Adopts 100% Renewables Goal

By Joseph Bebon, North American Wind Power • Posted 2018-01-12 06:23:15

On Tuesday, the Longmont, Colo., city council voted to approve a resolution committing the community in a shift away from fossil fuels and to transition to 100% renewable electricity by 2030. According to the Sierra Club, the city council resolution builds off of Longmont Mayor Brian Bagley's proclamation signed on Dec. 5 establishing a vision for powering the community entirely with clean and renewable sources of energy like wind and solar. [read more ...]

Electric Vehicle Tax Credit Survives, but G.M. and Tesla Aren't Cheering

By JAMES B. STEWART, New York Times • Posted 2018-01-12 06:23:30

Hardly anyone expected renewable energy subsidies to survive Republican tax reform. In the legislation the House of Representatives passed in November, Republicans drastically curtailed solar and wind power subsidies and put a stake in the heart of the tax credit for buyers of electric vehicles — all while preserving billions in subsidies for fossil fuels. Yet in the final tax bill Mr. Trump signed in December, there they are: the full panoply of tax incentives for renewable energy, as well as the \$7,500 electric vehicle tax credit.

[read more ...]

Berkshire Energy Unit Names Fehrman CEO to Replace Potential Buffett Successor

By Jonathan Stempel, REUTERS • Posted 2018-01-12 06:23:49

Berkshire Hathaway Inc's energy unit on Thursday named William Fehrman as its new chief executive to replace Gregory Abel, who was promoted a day earlier to oversee more Berkshire units, and potentially succeed Warren Buffett. Fehrman, 57, joined the energy unit, Berkshire Hathaway Energy Co, in 2006. [read more ...]

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